



1972

A N N U A L            R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

of the

East Dereham Urban District Council

of

EAST DEREHAM

Norfolk



STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for  
1972

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1972.

East Dereham Urban District occupies approximately the geographic centre of Norfolk and consists of 5,313 acres. The main industries are clock making, furniture making and engineering.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area in acres	5,313 acres
Estimated mid 1972 population	9,650
Rateable value April 1st, 1972	£409,730
Estimated product of Penny Rate 1972	£3,879

There were 138 live births of which 9 were illegitimate. This was 6.5% of the total births.

The birth rate was 15.0 per 1000 and compares with 14.8 for England and Wales.

There were 142 deaths, giving a natural decrease (births-deaths) of 4. There were 3 deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.

The death rate of 10.0 is lower than that for England and Wales (12.1). Ten deaths occurred below the age of 55. 53.5% of deaths occurred in persons over 75 years of age.



# VITAL STATISTICS

	1972	1971	1970	England & Wales
Live Births	133	141	140	783,165
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	15.0	16.0	17.6	14.8
Illegitimate live births percent of total live births	7	10	7	9
Still Births	-	1	-	794
Total Still and Live Births	138	142	140	734,199
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	3	-	2	12,494
<u>Infant Mortality Rates:</u>				
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births	22	-	14	17
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	16	-	15	17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	111	-	-	21
Neonatal Mortality Rate: (deaths under 4 wks per 1,000 live births)	22	-	14	12
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	14	-	14	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total births	14	7	14	22
Maternal Mortality	-	-	-	-
Deaths all ages	142	110	115	591,907
Death rate (adjusted) per 1,000 population	10.0	9.4	11.0	12.1

CAUSES OF DEATH:

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal cavity etc.	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, intestine	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1	6
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, prostate	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	3	5
Diabetes Mellitus	-	2	2
Avitaminoses, etc.	1	-	1
Anaemias	1	2	3
Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	2	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1	2
Hypertensive Disease	-	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	20	12	32
Other Forms of Heart Disease	5	12	17
Cerebrovascular Disease	11	13	24
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	2	3
Pneumonia	3	8	11
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	1	3
Asthma	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	2	3
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	2	2

/Cont'd...



CAUSES OF DEATH - Cont'd.

	Male	Female	Total
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	1	2
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All Other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	1	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES :-	64	78	142

One hundred and twenty-two (85.9%) of the 142 deaths occurred in persons over 55 years of age. Eighteen deaths (12.7%) occurred in the 55-64 age group, 38 deaths (26.8%) in the 65-74 age group and 76 deaths (53.5%) in persons over 75 years of age.

MALIGNANT DISEASES:

Cancer caused 22 deaths (15.5% of all deaths). Lung cancer caused 6 deaths i.e. 27.3% of the cancer deaths and 4.2% of the total deaths.



### INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Measles	17	7	2	4	91
Whooping Cough	20	74	2	1	4
Food Poisoning	3	3	2	-	1
Acute Meningitis	1	2	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-	1	3

### TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER:

		1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Male	14	14	14	13	12
	Female	11	11	11	10	10
	Total	25	25	25	23	22
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Male	2	2	2	2	3
	Female	5	5	5	5	5
	Total	7	7	7	7	8
GRAND TOTAL		32	32	32	30	30

### IMMUNISATION SCHEMES:

Immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles, German measles and tuberculosis, are offered by the County Council as the responsible Health authority.

In October 1971 the immunisation schedule was changed. Primary immunisation with the Triple Antigen (whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus) and oral poliomyelitis vaccine is commenced on the sixth month of life, the second dose is given two months later, and the third dose six months later. This scheme gives adequate protection so that the "booster" dose of antigen 13 months after the primary course is no longer necessary.

The reinforcing dose of diphtheria/tetanus antigen given at 5 years of age boosts the level of immunity. School leavers in the penultimate term are given a further reinforcing dose of tetanus toxoid. In the present state of our knowledge, it cannot be too strongly emphasised that the level of immunity by reinforcing doses of tetanus toxoid be maintained.

The following tables show the various immunising procedures undertaken in the Urban District in 1972.

#### MEASLES VACCINATION

Measles vaccine is offered to all babies at one year of age.

Year of Birth	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965- 1968	Others under 16	Total
Totals	-	32	26	5	30	-	93

#### POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

Year of Birth	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965- 1968	Others under 16	Total
Primary	-	56	9	1	1	-	67
Reinforcing	-	1	-	-	52	4	57



		1972	1971	1970	1969	1965-1968	Others under 16	Total
Diphtheria, Tetanus & Whooping cough	Primary	-	57	9	1	-	-	67
	Reinforcing	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Diphtheria/Tetanus	Primary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Reinforcing	-	1	-	-	50	9	60
Diphtheria	Primary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	Primary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	1	19	20

#### B.C.G. IMMUNISATION:

Immunisation against tuberculosis is offered to boys and girls who are in their fourteenth year of age. The injection is given at school.

No. of children eligible	226
No. of acceptances	185
No. of children heard tested	175
No. of tests read	164
No. of tests positive	7
Tuberculin index	7.1

#### RUBELLA VACCINATION

Vaccination against German measles is offered to girls who are in their fourteenth year of age. This vaccination is also given at school.

<u>Birth year</u>	<u>No. vaccinated</u>
1957	1
1958	34
1959	48
1960	1

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I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and the staffs of the Public Health Department and the Local Health Office for their continuous interest, support and help throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

L.G. Poole, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.  
Medical Officer of Health



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

A review of activities in this section for the last time, for the East Dereham Urban District, inevitably invites a flick through the pages of past reports. 1949 shows the population to be 6,360 and presents the first assessments of post-war environmental problems. The housing shortage was said to be "very serious" and the condition of many properties in the town "so poor" they should be demolished. Thirty-one Council and six private houses were built during the year.

Commenting on Sewage Disposal, water consumption was twenty-three gallons per head and night soil was collected from 564 of the 2,200 properties in the district but it adds courageously, "the collection was carried out at night". The current report will record a day collection from eight properties, which suggests progress in one direction or other. Social realism perhaps!

The fifties appear to have been devoted to repairs and renewals in the town centre, and the installation of new water and sewer mains in Toftwood to improve the standard of living of existing residents and prepare for the residential and industrial boom of the sixties. A press comment on the Registrar General's figures for the decade shows a population increase of 11.75% whereas the rural areas showed a decline.

The general pattern which emerges from the review suggests that the Council knew exactly the environmental standard they intended to achieve, and though there is much evidence to show the frustrations they had to contend with from Government restrictions and financial squeezes the following facts appear to confirm general acceptance of their efforts to make East Dereham an attractive habitat.

Population increase 47%.

Piped water and sewage disposal available to all properties. Water consumption 60 galls. per head.

Recreational acreage increased from five to fifty-seven.

The Council's answer to the '49 "very serious" housing shortage was to build 807 houses which is only 42 less than the number of private houses erected in the same period and today they have a land bank capable of adding a further 300 houses.

The Council's final contribution to the district's environmental assets are a swimming pool and sewage disposal facilities capable of serving about 100% population increase.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### 1. Sewage Treatment & Disposal

The suspended solids content of the sewage reaching the treatment works appears to be in excess of the design loading for the pressing plant, and on occasions it was necessary to operate on a twenty-four hour cycle to cope with the extra sludge.

New cloths and the use of Aluminium Chlorohydrate instead of Copperas and lime are being investigated as a means of increasing the capacity of the press and, finally, it is hoped that the second press, which was included in Stage 11 of the works extension, could be installed in advance of that contract.

The Council have decided to proceed with Stage 11 and expect to have Contract Documents ready next year and contracts placed early in 1974. Eight substandard properties mainly occupied by older residents remain on night soil and are serviced weekly.

### 2. Refuse Collection and Public Cleansing

The first complete year of operating a polythene sack refuse collection scheme under bonus incentive conditions found collection keeping pace with the town's growth. Studies since have shown that the existing system can cope with domestic refuse until reorganisation but is unable to include trade refuse.

Street and town centre footways are scavenged with mechanical sweepers.

### 3. Clean Air

Smoke created no measurable problem during the year under review, but control had to be exercised over a number of chimney heights.

### 4. Camping & Caravan Sites

There is one permanent licensed residential site and several individual caravans licensed to stand in private gardens.

Itinerant caravanners caused no great problem and invariably moved on after a short period of resistance.

### 5. Milk Supply

Bottling of milk by retailers in the district ceased during the year and there were no reported lapses from the accustomed high standard of milk supplied.



## 6. Noise

Increasing public concern over noise nuisance contributed to a number of complaints in which informal action proved an effective remedy.

## 7. Ice Cream

There remains one manufacturing licence in force in the district for the production of soft ice cream from a cold mix. Generally, sales from shops are of wrapped ice cream, while the tendency in catering establishments is towards ready-to-use soft ice cream. No customer complaints were received and no contravention of standards revealed by sampling.

## 8. Food Hygiene and Inspection

There has been a continuing emphasis upon improvement of premises and service generally, due both to public awareness and official action. A small number of complaints received concerning foodstuffs were satisfactorily resolved on an informal basis.

9. The following canned and other foods were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

- Approx. 500 lbs. meat and meat products
- Approx. 150 lbs. fish and fish products
- Approx. 30 lbs. poultry and poultry products
- Approx. 10 lbs. sausages and sausage products
- Approx. 90 lbs. vegetables
- Approx. 20 lbs. pastry
- Assorted cakes, trifles mousse.

## 10. Agricultural Work

There were no problems arising from employment of seasonal labour.



## 11. Offices and Shops

The following table summarises the work done in compliance with the offices, shops and railway premises Act:-

Class of premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	-	33	10
Retail Shops	5	70	25
Wholesale shops, warehouses.	-	3	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	9	9
Fuel storage depots.	-	2	-
Totals	7	117	44

A number of minor contraventions were corrected.

## 12. Pest Control

The incidence of rat and mice infestation would appear to be on the decrease and this is supported by a reduction in notifications received and the results of routine surveys. The decrease must be largely due to a winter campaign of area treatments which has been conducted for several years in this district.

The following table details work carried out:-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS.		
1. Number of properties in district.	3,700	60
2a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	110	10
b. Number infested by (i) Rats	100	10
(ii) Mice	10	-
3a. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	250	30
b. Number infested by (i) Rats	235	28
(ii) Mice	15	2

### 13. Housing

No closing Orders were made or undertakings sought on unfit dwellings during the year. The emphasis nowadays appears to be on repairs and improvements and it is interesting to see houses which were considered ripe for closing some years ago fetching over five or six thousand pounds.

## Annual Report of the Housing Officer for 1972

### Council House Developments

#### Littlefields Estate

With the construction of 9 dwellings on the above estate Stage 11 of this development has been completed. Plans are in preparation for Stage 111 development for the construction of 20 dwellings which will complete this estate.

#### Albert Myhill Close Stage 11

Work commenced on the construction of 14 Old Persons bungalows which were due for completion in July 1973.

### Future Council Developments

The following developments are at the planning stage:-

- 6 - 1 bedroom Old person Flats and 3 - 1 bedroom Old Person Bungalows at Bell Yard;
- 8 - 1 bedroom flatlets at Baxter Row;
- 26 - 3 bedroom 5 person houses, 12 - 2 bedroom 3 person bungalows at Sandy Lane West extension.

### Private Developments

The number of dwellings completed in 1972 was as follows:-

4 bedroom dwellings	1
3 bedroom dwellings	73
2 bedroom dwellings	24

The number of dwellings under construction at the end of December, 1972 was ... 161

### Council House Development

The number of Council dwellings completed in 1972 was as follows:-

3 bedroom houses	3
2 bedroom bungalows	6

### Improvement Grants

The number of approvals for improvement grants issued in 1972 was 34 and completions 32.

The following amenities were provided:-

Baths	28
Wash Basins	26
Sinks	22
Hot Water Installations	30
W.C's.	29

The amount of Grant paid in respect of these works was £9,493.







